

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-08

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TO SECSTATE WASHDC 7985
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C O N F I D E N T I A L PRAGUE 970

LIMDIS

GENEVA FOR AMBASSADOR SHERER

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: NATO, PFOR, US, CZ, EFIN
SUBJECT: CONVERSATION WITH FOREIGN MINISTER

REF: PRAGUE 959

1. FOREIGN MINISTER CHNOUPEK TOOK CHARGE ASIDE FOR A CONVERSATION APRIL 25 AT AIRPORT FAREWELL FOR AUSTRIAN FOREIGN MINISTER. CHNOUPEK ASKED IF WE WERE SATISFIED WITH THE ARRANGEMENT WHEREBY THE CZECHOSLOVAK AUTHORITIES WOULD COOPERATE WITH AND PARTICIPATE IN THE WREATH-LAYING CEREMONIES AT CHEB AND LENARE. CHARGE SAID WE WERE, AND APPRECIATED THIS FORWARD STEP BY THE CZECHOSLOVAKS. CHARGE ADDED THAT WE HAD NOT BEEN AS SATISFIED WITH RECENT PRESS TREATMENT OF OUR ROLE IN CZECHOSLOVAKIA IN WORLD WAR II. CHNOUPEK SAID HE HAD BEEN SO BUSY LATELY HE HAD NOT HAD TIME TO READ THE PRESS CAREFULLY (WHICH IS PROBABLY TRUE), AND CHARGE SAID HE HAD GIVEN DETAILS EARLIER IN DAY TO ZANOTOVSKY. HOWEVER, WE DID APPRECIATE VERY MUCH CZECHOSLOVAK ATTITUDE OF COOPERATION ON THE WREATH-LAYING CEREMONIES. (COMMENT: WITH REGARD TO PARA 5 OF

PRAGUE 959 ON OBJ ATIO AMPD PIPSNVREJRMENT: #SINCE

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THE OPPORTUNITY AROSE TO MENTION THIS TO THE FOREIGN MINISTER AS WELL AS TO ZANTOVSKY, WE ARE INCLINED TO THINK THAT ANY STATEMENT IN WRITTEN FORM HERE IS NO LONGER NECESSARY.)

2. CHNOUPEK SAID THEIR RECENT REPORTS FROM WASHINGTON INDICATED THAT SOME POSSIBILITY OF MOVEMENT ON CLAIMS BEGAN TO EXIST, AND THEY TOOK THIS AS A PROMISING SIGN. CHARGE SAID HE UNDERSTOOD THAT SOME PRELIMINARY EXPLORATIONS WERE TAKING PLACE, AND HE TOO HOPED THAT THIS WAS A PROMISING SIGN. CHNOUPEK SAID A SPEECH WAS BEING DRAFTED FOR PRIMIN STROUGAL, AND HE HAD TAKEN A HAND IN THE FIRST DRAFT TO INSURE THAT THE PREVIOUS RATHER POSITIVE LINE ABOUT US-CZECHOSLOVAK RELATIONS WAS MAINTAINED. CHARGE SAID THIS WOULD BE APPRECIATED.

3. AS FONMIN BIELKA'S ENTOURAGE PREPARED TO BOARD THE PLANE, CHNOUPEK BROUGHT HIM OVER FOR FAREWELL CHAT AND CONFIDED TO BIELKA THAT HE HAD JUST ASKED CHARGE TO CONVEY HIS SPECIAL GREETINGS TO SENATOR LONG.

PERRY

NOTE BY OC/T: #AS RECEIVED.

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